

**SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE
HOUSE RULES OF PROCEDURE
75TH LEGISLATURE - 1997**

H.R. 5 by Wilson

Rule 1--Duties and Rights of the Speaker

1. A provision has been added to prohibit the solicitation of written pledges by a candidate for speaker during a regular session.
(Rule 1, Section 18--page 8)

Rule 2--Employees

2. In the section of the rules relating to the duties of the chief clerk, provisions have been added to require the chief clerk to request fiscal notes on house bills and joint resolutions with senate amendments and to distribute fiscal notes on house bills and joint resolutions with senate amendments and conference committee reports on house bills and joint resolutions. This change was necessary as a result of the new provisions that would require that the members be provided with a fiscal note on house bills and joint resolutions with senate amendments and conference committee reports before action can be taken on senate amendments or conference committee reports. See the changes described under Rule 13.
(Rule 2, Section 1(d)(5)--page 13)

Rule 3--Standing Committees

3. The jurisdictions of the standing committees have been updated to reflect the abolition, creation, and name changes of state agencies by the legislature. A summary of those changes follows:

Section 3. BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY -- The committee's jurisdiction has been updated to reflect the abolition of the Workers' Compensation Research Center and the creation of the Research and Oversight Council on Workers' Compensation. The previously unassigned Texas Workers' Compensation Insurance Fund Board and Texas Workers' Compensation Insurance Facility Governing Committee have been added to the committee's jurisdiction.

Section 9. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT -- The committee's jurisdiction has been updated to reflect the abolition of the Texas Employment Commission and the creation of the Texas Workforce Commission.

Section 13. FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS -- The committee's jurisdiction has been updated to reflect the abolition of the State Banking Board and the Office of the State Treasurer.

Section 15. HIGHER EDUCATION -- Jurisdiction over the newly created Prepaid Higher Education Tuition Board has been added.

Section 17. HUMAN SERVICES -- The committee's jurisdiction has been updated to reflect the change in the name of the "Texas Committee on Purchases of Products and Services of the Blind and Severely Disabled Persons" to the "Texas Council on Purchasing from People with Disabilities", and the change in the name of the "Texas Commission for the Deaf and Hearing Impaired" to the "Texas Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing".

Section 26. PUBLIC EDUCATION -- The committee's jurisdiction has been updated to reflect the change in the name of the "Central Education Agency" to the "Texas Education Agency". Jurisdiction over the newly created State Board for Educator Certification has been added.

Section 27. PUBLIC HEALTH -- Jurisdiction over the newly created Texas Health Care Information Council has been added. The committee's jurisdiction has been updated to reflect the change in the name of the "Texas State Board of Podiatry Examiners" to the "Texas State Board of Podiatric Medical Examiners".

Section 31. STATE AFFAIRS -- Jurisdiction over the newly created Inaugural Endowment Fund Committee and the Telecommunications Infrastructure Fund Board have been added.

Section 32. STATE, FEDERAL, AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS -- The committee's jurisdiction has been updated to reflect the abolition of the Antiquities Committee.

Section 34. TRANSPORTATION -- The committee's jurisdiction has been updated to reflect the abolition of the Texas High-Speed Rail Authority.

Rule 4--Organization, Powers, and Duties of Committees

4. A provision has been added to expressly require the names of witnesses who testify during a committee meeting and the persons or entities represented by those persons to be listed in an attachment that must be included with the minutes for each public hearing. This change will facilitate the electronic availability of minutes and witness information in the Legislative Information System (LIS) and on the Internet.
(Rule 4, Section 18(b)--page 52)
5. The rules have been changed to reflect that the Summary of Committee Action and Witness List will now be separate pieces of the committee report, rather than being part of the bill analysis. This change will facilitate the automation of the preparation of the Summary of Committee Action and the Witness List for each committee report and will also facilitate the electronic availability of those parts of the committee report in LIS and on the Internet.
(Rule 4, Section 32(b)(9-10)--page 60)
6. A provision has been added to require the chair of a committee to request the LBB to prepare a tax equity note on a bill or joint resolution that creates or impacts a state tax or fee. A tax equity note will be subject to the same provisions that govern other impact statements.
(Rule 4, Section 34(b)(5)--page 64)
7. The rules have been clarified to reflect the long-standing interpretation of the rules that bills and resolutions cannot be referred to subcommittee with amendments or a substitute attached. This prohibition has been implied in the past by the provision in the rules that states that "(a)ll *bills and resolutions* shall be considered by the entire standing committee unless the chair of that standing committee determines to refer the *bills and resolutions* to subcommittee" (emphasis added).
(Rule 4, Section 48--pages 68-69)

Rule 5--Floor Procedure

8. A provision has been added to allow a roll call vote to be taken to confirm the presence or absence of a quorum if two hours has elapsed since the last roll call and the request for a roll call is seconded by 25 members.
(Rule 5, Section 5--pages 74-75)

Rule 6--Order of Business and Calendars

9. The rules have been changed to allow the Rules and Resolutions Committee to set a Congratulatory and Memorial Calendar without having to issue a committee report on each congratulatory and memorial resolution. The rules will still require a majority vote of the membership of the Rules and Resolutions Committee in order for a resolution to be placed on a Congratulatory and Memorial Calendar.
(Rule 6, Section 11--page 99)

Rule 7--Motions

No changes.

Rule 8--Bills

10. The end-of-session deadlines have been modified to provide for an express midnight deadline for second reading consideration of bills and joint resolutions that appear on a daily or supplemental daily house calendar.
(Rule 8, Section 13(a-c)--page 132)
11. The end-of-session deadlines have been modified to allow the house to discharge conferees and concur in senate amendments on the 138th and 139th days of the session.
(Rule 8, Section 13(e)--page 133)

Rule 9--Joint Resolutions

No changes.

Rule 10--House Resolutions and Concurrent Resolutions

No changes.

Rule 11--Amendments

No changes.

Rule 12--Printing

No changes.

Rule 13--Interactions with the Governor and Senate

12. A provision has been added to require the chief clerk to request the LBB to prepare a fiscal note on each house bill and joint resolution (other than the general appropriations bill) that is returned to the house with senate amendments. Under the new provision, a copy of the fiscal note must be provided to each member before action can be taken by the house on the senate amendments.
(Rule 13, Section 5(b)--page 156)
13. A provision has been added to require a fiscal note to be submitted to the chief clerk and a copy of the fiscal note to be provided to each member before action can be taken by the house on a conference committee report for a bill or joint resolution, other than the general appropriations bill.
(Rule 13, Section 10(c)--page 163)

Rule 14--General Provisions

No changes.